

# Brethren Evangelist

"I Am the Way, the Truth and the Life."—Jesus

VOLUME XXI

ASHLAND, O., WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1899

No. 3

## An Appeal to the Brotherhood

It is not an appeal for money but an earnest plea for holier living ; for a higher standard of righteousness on the part of those who profess faith in the Lord Jesus, a righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the Scribes and Pharisees : a plea for more consecrated and personal effort in the prosecution of the work whereunto God in Christ has called us. This year of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ should be one richly crowned with unparalleled results in the conversion of souls and in the spiritual strengthening and upbuilding of Zion. A single issue of the EVANGELIST a few weeks ago reported 125 conversions ; why should not the Brethren church add 100 members each week during this year of grace and thus contribute our humble efforts, feeble tho they be, in the great work of bringing this lost world to a saving knowledge of the truth as it is in Jesus. This after all is the one great purpose of the divine incarnation, God in Christ, that he might reconcile the world to himself and bring back wandering humanity into fellowship and communion with him. To this end Jesus came, to accomplish this one purpose the Son of God entered into human history as the Son of Man, and lived and taught and wrought marvelous works and suffered and died, was buried, rose from the dead and ascended to heaven. He came to seek and to save that which was lost and give to those who accept him life eternal.

During the two years that yet remain of the nineteenth century we look for a larger increase in the number of conversions, for greater and more substantial progress in the growth of the kingdom of God than any previous two years since the beginning of the Christian era. Surely the Brethren church will contribute its humble effort in the magnificent advance the kingdom of truth is destined to make before the close of the century, midnight, December 31, 1900. We believe it altogether possible, even probable, that within the next two years the present number of Christians will be doubled ; yes, we believe it within the power of the Christian church to do this very thing. Why should it be considered a thing impossible that in the next two years every Christian should be the humble instrument in God's hand to lead one soul to Jesus ? Is that an unreasonable request ? Is there a single child of God

anywhere today who cannot in these two years, by a holy example, by faithful and loyal devotion to the Master, be the means of bringing some wayward son or daughter, brother or sister, father or mother, or friend, to accept Jesus as Savior and Redeemer ? Will not every reader of the EVANGELIST make this the subject of earnest prayer ? True, it will mean consecrated, personal effort and sacrifice, but oh, the joy and the power of consecrated, personal effort for the Master. Would that the spirit which possessed Andrew when he found Jesus would take hold of every child of God that each one might make haste to bring some wandering prodigal to the Father's house to enjoy its peace and plenty.

It is a lamentable fact that the laity of the church shifts this responsibility of personal effort in winning souls to Jesus on the ministry. It is very little that even a consecrated pulpit can do with a worldly pew. Tho the minister bring to his people, each Sabbath, the simple gospel story, the message of peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, of love and good will and self-sacrifice, and his hearers receive it not, the efforts of even the consecrated man of God will be frustrated. The *pew* needs the Holy Ghost as much as the *pulpit*. There is great demand for spirit-filled preachers ; let us not forget that a spirit-filled *pew* is equally important and before we can have either we must have *Word*-filled pulpit and pew. The strength of the church is not measured by the number of its members, but the personal consecration of each one. The power of the church is measured by what it is at the altar, before the throne of grace. Oh, there is power in a consecrated life, a life whose every thought and feeling and word and action, pulsates in harmony with the Life Divine. A praying church is a mighty, an invincible army ; a prayerless church is a powerless church. Whether we shall have power with men in winning them to the uplifted Christ depends on whether we have power with God. Let the church consecrate herself anew to the service of the Master, and let her pray, pray earnestly, pray that a great tidal wave of religious zeal and enthusiasm may sweep over the country bringing new life to the church and salvation to the lost. "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves and pray and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways ; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land."